

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 17, 1991

CITIZEN PRESENTS NEWS ARTICLE
REGARDING PROPOSED SENIOR PROGRAM
IN MANTECA

CC-169

Mr. Walter Pruss, 2421 Diablo Drive, Lodi presented a newspaper article telling of a recent program being suggested by Manteca Police Chief Willie Weatherford, whereby he wants to train 20 senior-citizen volunteers, put them in uniform, and assign them to such tasks as making vacant-home checks, locating abandoned vehicles, and assisting in traffic control. They would be armed--but just with pads and pencils and two-way radios and be paired in regular patrol cars. Mr. Pruss suggested that the City of Lodi should consider implementing a like program. Mayor Hinchman directed the City Clerk to work with Mr. Pruss in getting this suggestion disseminated to Police Chief Williams and to the Lodi Senior Citizens Commission.

DAVID M. HINCHMAN, Mayor
JAMES W. PINKERTON, Jr.
Mayor Pro Tempore
PHILLIP A. PENNINO
JACK A. SIEGLOCK
JOHN R. (Rand) SNIDER

CITY OF LODI

CITY HALL, 221 WEST PINE STREET
P.O. BOX 3006
LODI, CALIFORNIA 95241-1910
(209) 334-5634
FAX (209) 333-6795

THOMAS A. PETERSON
City Manager
ALICE M. REIMCHE
City Clerk
BOB McNATT
City Attorney

July 19, 1991

Eleanor Todd
Chairperson
Lodi Senior Citizens Commission


Dear Eleanor:

Lodi citizen Walter Pruss presented information contained in the attached article at the July 17, 1991 City Council meeting. The article tells of a recent program being suggested by Manteca Police Chief Willie Weatherford, whereby Re wants to train 20 senior citizen volunteers, put them in uniform, and assign them to such tasks as making vacant-home checks, locating abandoned vehicles, and assisting in traffic control. They would be armed--but just with pads and pencils and two-way radios and be paired in regular patrol cars. Mr. Pruss suggested that the City of Lodi should consider implementing such a program.

Mayor Hinchman asked that I provide you with a copy of the subject article. We would appreciate receiving your comments regarding the implementation of such a program.

Very truly yours,


Alice M. Reimche
City Clerk

AMR/jmp

Attachment

Cities, county should seize Manteca idea

Manteca Police Chief Willie Weatherford has come up with a marvelous idea to give his department not only additional eyes and ears, but a helping hand, too.

He wants to train 20 senior citizen volunteers and then put them in uniform and on the street to do such necessary things as making vacant home checks, locating abandoned vehicles and assisting in traffic control.

They'd be armed — but just with pads and pencils and two-way radios — and be paired in regular patrol cars.

Weatherford's plan not only should be approved by the Manteca City Council tonight, it should be copied by every city around.

Seniors can do the job. San Clemente, that Southern California community, has 24 seniors patrolling its streets.

(We also have some personal knowledge of what seniors can do. Henry "Hank" Schuback, one of The Record's uniformed security officers, is in his 70s and works circles around some of his younger peers.)

But we shouldn't be thinking recruiting seniors is just to give police a helping hand.

We should be using their talents and expertise everywhere.

Some schools, for example, have excellent programs that utilize older volunteers. Lincoln Unified's Tully G. Knoles School comes immediately to mind. And there are the Foster Grandparent programs and the San Joaquin County Department of Aging's ombudsman program and the Library Literacy Program.

Those don't attract enough of our older citizens.

We need to think of innovative ways, like Chief Weatherford has, for developing the resources that our older residents represent.

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief of Police
Community Center Director

From: Alice M. Reimche *AR*
City Clerk

Date: July 19, 1991

Subject: Citizen's Suggestion for Police Department's Use of Senior Volunteers

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July 19, 1991

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Chairperson
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[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
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ALICE M. REIMCHE
CITY CLERK
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Alice M. Reimche
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City Clerk

AMR/jmp

Attachment

Dear Alice - I think this is a fine idea. There are many ways we seniors could help at the city's many departments faced with budget constraints. We could do volunteer work in order to help with additional work you couldn't afford to pay for. I would love it!
Eleanor T.